



From the Desk of Tom Owen
March 2009

C'mon citizens! In the face of tough economic times, we either tighten up in fear or struggle on with a plan. For those of us fortunate enough to have dollars left for entertainment or that once or twice a month treat of special food or drink, I believe we ought to spend them here at home.

Dollars spent in Louisville preserve and grow opportunities for all our citizens. They keep the lights on in our restaurants and stores, assure tax dollars for vital government services, and, most importantly, help keep our hard-pressed neighbors in their jobs. Like rolling snowballs, money spent here has a startling multiplier effect that redounds across our whole community.

You've got neighbors who make their living in local orchestras, ballet troupes, and opera companies while others ply their craft on stage in one of our theatre companies or play gigs at local taverns or music halls. There has never been a better time to purchase a ticket to live, local entertainment—supporting the performers and those that help put the show on. Further, if you're in the market for fine art, our local painters, sculptors, and crafts people need your patronage.

It's also a great time to deepen your appreciation for Louisville's many wonderful historic homes and museums—all anxious to tell their intriguing stories. And while I'm in the nudging mode have you seen the NEW "Kentucky Show" showing in the lobby of the Kentucky Center for the Arts?

C'mon Louisville! It's time to hunker down and spend locally! If you're financially able, it's homegrown community time: eating out, stopping for a coffee or a drink, and just plain "living live locally!"